

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064771

FOLLOWING REPEATS LA PAZ 1484 ACTION DEOT INFP BUENOS AIRES LIMA
SANTIAGO FEB 28TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY DRUG OFFICIALS

FOR S/NM - AMBASSADOR VANCE

1. FOLLOWING THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE WE DISCUSSED
THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING A MEETING OF KEY LATIN
AMERICAN OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS - ESPECIALLY
COCAINE-TRAFFIC CONTROL FROM THE REGION. SINCE THEN
I HAVE CHECKED WITH AMBASSADORS HILL, POPPER AND DEAN
AND I NOW SUBMIT TO YOU A FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A
MEETING TO BE FUNDED BY S/NM. THE PROPOSAL INCORPORATES
THE VIEWS OF MY COLLEAGUES GIVING WEIGHT TO THE MAJORITY
IN CASES OF DISAGREEMENT.

2. I PROPOSE A ONE-WEEK MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY DRUG
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OFFICIALS, I.E. NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICIALS OR POLICY

OFFICIALS WHO AFFECT CONTROL AND COORDINATION. THREE OR FOUR OFFICIALS FROM EACH OF ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU WOULD BE INVITED. U.S. PARTICIPATION WOULD BE LOW KEY. THE U.S. EMBASSY AND DEA AT THE SITE OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD ARRANGE, COORDINATE, AND REPORT THE MEETING. US PERSONNEL FROM WASHINGTON OR DEA REGIONAL OFFICIALS WOULD NOT ATTEND.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WOULD BE TO ARRANGE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICIALS OF ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU COULD ESTABLISH DIRECT COMMUNICATION AMONG THEMSELVES. SMALL GROUPS OF OFFICIALS FROM THESE FOUR COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO FORGE THE PERSONAL BONDS NECESSARY TO BEGIN IMPROVING COORDINATION, BORDER CONTROL, EXCHANGE OF FUGITIVES AND NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE AND PERHAPS JOINT INVESTIGATIONS. A POLICE CHIEFS CONFERENCE MIGHT IMPROVE GENERAL LAW-ENFORCEMENT JOINT INVESTIGATIONS.

4. I BELIEVE BOLIVIA WOULD BE A GOOD SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE. A ONE WEEK CONFERENCE RE SHOULD COST ABOUT \$6,500 INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, PER DIEM REPRESENTATION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS COSTS.

5. IF YOU APPROVE, I WILL RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOB'S HOSTING THE CONFERENCE WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS HERE AND KEEP EMBASSIES BUENOS AIRES, LIMA AND SANTIAGO INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
STEDMAN
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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